

# LIBERTY



Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

January 2000

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:00 pm on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at state party headquarters, 720 East 18<sup>th</sup> Ave in Denver.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call Bette Rose for details: 303-639-5530.

## ADAMS COUNTY AFFILIATE FORMED

By Jay Carper

On Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Adams County Libertarians received their certificate of affiliation from the Libertarian Party of Colorado. State chair Bette Rose Smith presented the certificate to affiliate representative Jay Carper.

John Berntson, winner of the 1999 Ptak award for his work in reorganizing and re-energizing the Libertarian Party of El Paso County, was there to offer advice on projects and activities that will help the new affiliate grow and prosper. "As an unofficial advisor, Mr. Berntson will be invaluable to Adams County as we put down roots and expand our involvement in the community," said Carper.

A meeting at an as yet undetermined location will be held on January 29<sup>th</sup> to introduce libertarian ideas to the public and to announce the new affiliate's plans for the year. Business meetings are open to everyone and will be held at 7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of each month at Shari's Restaurant, 511 East 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Members of the affiliate also plan to hold regular social meetings at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at the Jade City Café, 12010 Melody Drive.

Members elected Sean Wallace of Thornton as their secretary, Jeff Miller of Thornton as treasurer, and Jay Carper of Northglenn to be their chair. Carper envisions an organization that gets involved in the local communities

and demonstrates libertarian principles in action. According to Carper the new affiliate "will show people how they can live without the government holding their hand."

Anyone wishing to contact the Adams County Libertarians should send e-mail to <jaycarper@zdnetwork.com>, or call him at 303-252-7808.

## COLORADO QUALIFIES FOR 37 DELEGATES

On December 7<sup>th</sup> the national office of the Libertarian Party released preliminary data showing that Colorado has qualified to send 37 delegates, or 2.55% of the entire allocation nationwide, to the convention in Anaheim, California next summer.

"Filling our quota will be a challenge because we've never sent this many people to a national convention before," said Colorado state chair Bette Rose Smith. "National conventions are always exciting, and this one is sure to be especially memorable. Everyone who attends will hear great speakers, make dozens of new Libertarian friends from all across America, and have a voice in selecting the party's next presidential nominee."

Colorado Libertarians who want to go to Anaheim as delegates should be sure their national membership dues are paid current by the time of the state party convention next April, when Colorado will choose its delegation. You must be a full-fledged member of the national party to be selected as one of the delegates.

### inside

2 Notes from the Chair

5 Freedom Stolen Bit by Bit

7 Liberty Calendar

9 Strategies for Success

10 Letters to the Liberty

## Notes from the Chair

Dear Friends of Liberty,

Welcome to a new year and a new decade! Are you ready for the changes and challenges coming our way in the year 2000 and beyond? Will we continue to make the kind of advances we made in the '90s? Will we continue to grow at an increasing rate?

I joined the LP in 1979 but didn't become very active until 1994. What wonderful changes I've witnessed these past seven years! Membership has more than doubled and voter registration continues its amazing climb. We have achieved Minor Political Party status. Our candidates are now invited to all the League of Women Voters forums, and to other forums and debates as well. More and more famous people are claiming to be libertarians, the word is now well recognized by readers of the mainstream press, and we're forming new affiliates — three in the past year alone!

As we move ahead into the new year, we must focus our efforts in two areas to keep our party moving forward.

**Legislature:** David Bryant is building a team to watch the Colorado legislature, keeping us informed about bills that need our attention. People are needed to fill the positions on this team. Since this is something you can do at home with an internet connection, it's a good choice for people who want to help but who don't have much time or can't travel to Denver.

Contact David <davidbryant@att.net> to become a member of this vital team. It takes so little to move the legislature toward freedom on minor bills. But we must know that those bills exist. If you recall the "Know Your Customer" regulation and how the National LP was able to influence that, you know how important it is to be well-informed. Please help with this project. David will give you

complete directions on how to follow the fools on the hill and what they're doing.

**Campaigns:** To be perceived as a political force, we must run candidates for office. The constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado says:

### Article VII, Section 2

*Nominations for all other [i.e., not statewide] candidates may be made by the Party affiliates or district caucus of Party members and affiliates representing the area or district in which the candidate must run in accordance with such procedures as the affiliate or district caucus may provide, subject to the requirements of Section 3 herein, and further subject to ratification by a Party Convention or the Convention's designated committee, as provided in Article VII, Section 1.*

This means that Libertarians can get together and nominate candidates for local partisan offices, and those nominations can be ratified at the convention in April. We need our affiliates and/or district caucuses to find candidates. Is there a city or county office that will be up for election in 2000? Can you call the clerk and recorder to learn the requirements for that office? Do you want to see a full slate of Libertarians? Do you want your friends and neighbors to have a chance to vote Libertarian? To see us as a growing, viable alternative? Then please help us put candidates on the ballot. Call me (303-639-5530; betterrose@aol.com) if you aren't sure how to form a caucus. Send information about offices and possible candidates in your area to Dean Jacobsen <dean@rockware.com>.

Look at the bright side of holding your caucus before the convention in April. If we only have to ratify your choices, less time will be needed for business and more time will be available for fun.

Let's make this a year to remember. Let's continue to rack up victories. Let's create a visible, successful party. Let's work together to make this the best year yet!

In Liberty,

*Bette Rose Smith*

*"Let's create a visible, successful party. Let's work together to make this the best year yet!"*

**LIBERTY**

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# OUTREACH RESULTS

by Tom Goonan

For the past two years the Libertarian Party of Colorado has been receiving lists of Colorado residents who have made inquiries to the national party for one reason or another. In my capacity as Outreach Director I have energized a group of volunteers, who represent certain geographic areas, to contact these persons and to offer the services of the party, or of a group of local activists, to build a rapport that some day will lead to a new member. Recently, I asked the volunteers to tell me how well the program was working for them. Here is a sampling of their responses.

Bennett Rutledge of the newly organized Southside affiliate, which includes the cities of Englewood, Littleton, and Highlands Ranch, reported that from the sample of 78 names I forwarded to him, 7% of the postcards sent were returned. Of those who had telephone numbers, 24% were obsolete, 26% did not answer or respond to messages, 26 % were simply not interested, 7% wanted to be kept informed, but were not interested in being active, and 17% said they might participate. At the Southside organizational meeting, seven people from the original list actually showed up.

John Geltemeyer coordinates membership activities in the highly successful El Paso County affiliate. With regard to this program, which is just one of several that John uses to increase membership in the El Paso affiliate, he says: "If national added one more category, maybe something like 'issue', we might have some additional leverage during the contact call. Many of these are just barely this side of a cold call."

John informs them that we exist, then invites them to get together to discuss their concerns or philosophical questions. This hasn't worked at all. John

would like to have the "magic words" used by anyone who has succeeded with this approach. John invites the callees to the monthly meeting, and gets anything from dead air to an "ecstatic" response. He offers to put them on the mailing list to receive a monthly newsletter, and to answer any questions of the moment. These conversations can sometimes lead into an hour long discussion.

John doesn't say how many new members can be credited to the program. My guess is that he is probably having more success with his affiliate-generated programs, and there's a lesson in that. When an affiliate invests in a program to increase membership, local creativity will be energized to get the job done.

Tom Parker of Boulder County says "I like getting the names of prospective members. I especially like the ones with e-mail, because I can contact them immediately. [Between 10 and 20% of the names that come from national have e-mail addresses.] I can't say that I've had much success in converting prospects into members, but it is possible that my records wouldn't reflect a success."

Personally, I have had mixed results in Jefferson County. If I get a new name that has an e-mail address, I immediately put them on the e-mail list for information about meetings. People without e-mail get short-changed in that we compile their names but don't really follow up effectively. We have added five new active members from the e-mail list over the past two years.

Increasing party membership is no easy task. Anyone with suggestions on how to make it happen should attend the state convention in April, where we'll have a breakout session on this topic. If you can't make the convention, then send your ideas to me, Tom Goonan, PO Box 150264 Lakewood CO 80215, or send e-mail to <tgoonan@sprintmail.com>.

3

*"Increasing party membership is no easy task."*

## OUTREACH ASSISTANCE NEEDED!

Are you interested in helping the Libertarian Party grow faster?

Will you make six or eight phone calls each month to welcome new members?

If so, contact Tom Goonan <tgoonan@sprintmail.com> or BetteRose (303-639-5530).

## LEGISLATURE TO CONVENE

On Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, the Colorado general assembly will open for business, and the Libertarian Party will be watching.

The first week of the session will be marked by the introduction of a whole slew of bills – probably six or seven hundred. That's when we'll be watching most closely. Once the truly bad bills have been identified it will be easier for citizens across Colorado to help ride herd on their representatives. But that first mad stampede is a real killer.

If you have an internet connection you can help us get a handle on this year's legislative excrescences. Just log on to the state legislature's web page at

[www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/stateleg.html](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/stateleg.html)

and follow the links for House and Senate. You can easily learn what bills have been introduced, read the bills themselves, and follow the calendars from the comfort of your own home.

If you want to get actively involved in the party's Legislative Watchdog Team, please send e-mail to <davidbryant@att.net>. Do it now – before the stampede!

*"If you have an internet connection you can help us get a handle on this year's legislative excrescences."*

## DUNAFON FOR MAYOR!

Mike Dunafon, the Glendale Libertarian who founded the Tea Party to fight irresponsible government, has announced he will run for Mayor next spring. He has received the endorsement of several community leaders including Russell George, Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, Joe Stengle, State Rep, and Jan Schanck, Mayor of Golden. Dunafon, a Colorado native, currently sits on the planning and zoning board in Glendale.

Glendale voters will go to the polls next April. Previously, elections drew less than 300 votes from a population of over 4,000 adults. Voter participation nearly doubled in 1998 when the Glendale Tea Party first burst upon the scene.

At least three city council seats are also up for grabs. There are no publicly declared candidates yet, but rumor has it that one or more Libertarian hats may be thrown into the ring. For more information or to learn how you can help call Michele Poague at 303-690-2907.

## COLORADO LIBERTARIANS HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE

This list of nine Libertarians holding public office in Colorado was recently received from national LP headquarters. If you know of someone else who should be on this list, please call BetteRose at 303-639-5530 or send e-mail to <betterose@aol.com>.

**Richard O. Crow**, Elected, Woodland Park Board of Adjustments

**Carol K. Hill**, Appointed, Lake County Board of Adjustments

**Mike Kien**, Elected, Mayor Pro Tem Oak Creek

**Howard P. Lambert**, Elected, Mayor Gold Hill Town and Chair, Gold Hill Town Meeting, Inc.

**William S. Masters**, Elected, Sheriff of San Miguel County

**Chester A. Ptak**, Appointed, Boulder County Historic Preservation Advisory Board

**J. Brent Shroyer**, Elected, Rangely Planning & Zoning Commission

**Cyril B. Smaling**, Appointed, UA Commission and Elected, Museum Board

**M. Bruce Waters**, Appointed, Community At Large Representative

### PHOTOGRAPHY HELP NEEDED

Earl took some digital pictures, but David couldn't process them successfully this month.

If you have a camera and you'd like to help, please call the office at 303-837-9393 to volunteer.

## PARTY KEEPS ON GROWING

There's an encouraging trend evident in the following average annual growth rate data for each two year period since 1985. These data are for the national Libertarian Party.

### Annual LP Membership Growth Rates

1985 - 87	4%
1987 - 89	21%
1989 - 91	6%
1991 - 93	2%
1993 - 95	19%
1995 - 97	30%
1997 - 99	20%

With non-member contributors included, the average annual growth rate for the 1997-99 period was 24%. Let's keep striving to build the party!

Our Libertarian leader in Leadville, Carol Hill, sent us a little background on this story. Carol's friend Deborah Benz claims she is most emphatically *not* a Libertarian. A few months ago Deborah wrote a long letter to the editor of Leadville's weekly paper, *The Herald Democrat*. Jeff Dick, the editor, said that if she could shorten the letter a bit he'd run it. But when she brought the shorter version back he said he didn't have room, and it would have to wait until the next week. Deborah then tried to place the letter as a paid advertisement. Jeff still refused, and an argument ensued. "If you don't like it, go start your own paper," said Jeff. And so *The Leadville Picayune* was born.

"Build A Generation", or BAG, is a quasi-public agency in Leadville trying to reduce underage drinking. Wayne Patton is Leadville's city attorney. Deborah Benz, who only *sounds* like a Libertarian, wrote this column for the November 11<sup>th</sup> *Picayune*.

## FREEDOM STOLEN BIT BY BIT

by Deborah Benz

The November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999 issue of *The Picayune* discussed BAG's implementation of liquor store surveillance by police agencies. Among the comments we received was the following note from local attorney Wayne Patton.

Dear Ms. Benz:

I wanted to let you know that I fully support your thought that "individual freedom requires individual responsibility," as contained in the Nov. 4, '99 issue of *The Leadville Picayune*. I do not see the surveillance cameras in liquor stores as being a constitutional threat, as anyone going into a liquor store is in full view of whomever chooses to watch. However, I fully support the intent of your article that our politicians are increasingly asking citizens to give up individual freedoms in vain attempts to solve problems that would be solved by persons accepting responsibility for their actions and acting responsibly when exercising freedoms. I will not give up my freedoms and will not give up my right to bear arms instead of holding criminals responsible for their actions.

I applaud Wayne's response supporting individual responsibility and his commitment to individual freedoms. This is in sharp contrast to many of the politicians in Lake County who express a complete, unmitigated willingness to give up just about any freedom for just about any cause.

It does seem, however, that Wayne is following an all too common trend. He, like most others, sees no constitutional threat from surveillance in liquor stores. He could be right. After all, what is the

difference between going into a convenience store knowing the management has you under surveillance, or going to a liquor store knowing you will be under the watchful eye of BAG's camera?

I believe there are two important differences. First, it's a question of who is doing the surveillance, and second, under whose auspices. The convenience store ownership and management have determined such a policy is necessary to protect their property and the safety of their customers and employees. They have paid for the implementation of this policy with their own resources. A customer who walks into their store knowingly accepts the terms of commerce imposed by the management, or can vote against those terms by choosing another store.

The liquor store surveillance has been instituted by BAG, a taxpayer-funded organization with an agenda and a political point of view. Taxpayer-funded police agencies will be responsible for enforcing that agenda. Should taxpayers be forced to pay for their own surveillance, especially when it's demanded by a group with a political agenda?

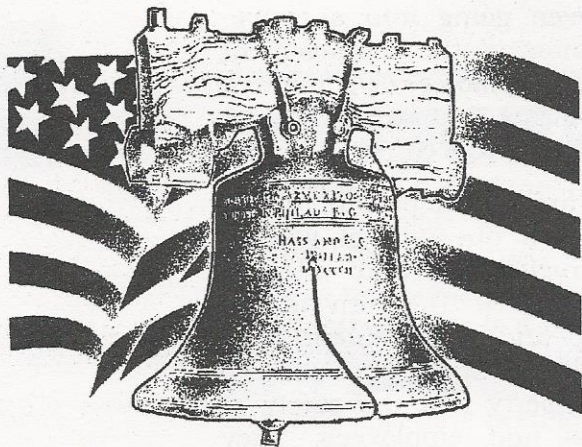
I do not believe there are too many instances in life or history where freedom was lost in one dramatic confrontation with the body politic. Chances of the commies or police coming to your house one dark night are virtually nil. Chances of politicians, police, and do-gooders stealing your freedom bit by bit, piece by piece, while you are asleep at the switch, are very real indeed.

If we as citizens are waiting for "the big one" to stand up and be counted as protectors of freedom and liberty, then we will be very surprised indeed to finally realize that while we were waiting at the front door with our fingers on the trigger, the thieves entered through the rear door and took everything, leaving us with a Constitution which is little more than a worthless piece of paper.

If we are to protect freedom and liberty we must be vigilant, willing to frequently stand up and be counted - every day if necessary.

I do sincerely thank Mr. Patton for his e-mail, his concern, and his commitment.

*"Chances of politicians, police, and do-gooders stealing your freedom bit by bit, piece by piece, while you are asleep at the switch, are very real indeed."*



# LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION

Join us for an  
Exploration into the  
Freedom Movement  
at the Close of the 20th Century

2000

## Renaissance of Liberty

Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 14-15-16

Meet the  
Libertarian Party's  
Presidential Candidates for 2000

### Harry Browne

Harry Browne is an investment advisor, the author of nine books, a newsletter writer, radio personality, and public speaker. He was also the 1996 Libertarian candidate for President of the United States.

His books include *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World*, and *Why Government Doesn't Work*,

Browne has made appearances on CNN, the Larry King show, CNBC, and other national and local radio & television shows.

### Larry Hines

After completing his contract with the U.S. Marines in 1987, Hines relocated to San Diego, California where he worked as a legal secretary in some of the most prestigious law firms in the country, gaining practical experience in business administration, law and politics.

Larry Hines won the Bronze Medal in Softball at the 1998 *Gay Games V* held in Amsterdam and held elected office on the board of directors of *America's Finest City Softball League*.

### Gala Banquet Featuring David Boaz

David Boaz has played a key role in the development of the Cato Institute and the libertarian movement. He is the author of *Libertarianism: A Primer*, and the editor of *The Libertarian Reader*. He is a leading authority on domestic issues like educational choice, drug legalization, the growth of government, and the rise of libertarianism and is a frequent guest on national television and radio shows.

BEST WESTERN  
EXECUTIVE HOTEL  
441 Peoria Street  
Denver CO 80239

For Hotel Reservations  
1-800-848-4060  
303-373-5730

#### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

		Door Price
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY WITH BANQUET:	\$109	\$149
<input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL BANQUET:	\$40	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 DAY NO BANQUET:	\$79	\$109
<input type="checkbox"/> BANQUET ONLY:	\$55	\$65
<input type="checkbox"/> BEEF <input type="checkbox"/> SEAFOOD <input type="checkbox"/> VEGETARIAN		

☐ Check ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order  
☐ Visa/ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to Bette Rose Smith or Michele Bethke

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Libertarian Convention 2000

720 East 18 Avenue, #309

Denver, CO 80203

303-837-9393

Remember, there is no charge for business meetings or candidate elections

## Banquet - Dance - Luncheon - Suite Parties

# LIBERTY CALENDAR

## JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 2000

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 2	<b>3 LPBC Activists</b> Noon. Healthy Habits, Foothills & Baseline. 303-443-9179 <b>Adams County</b> 6 pm. Call Jay Carper: 303-252-7808	<b>4 Fort Collins</b> 7 am, Joe's Fireside Café. Call Lee Smith: 970-635-0395 <b>Southside – 7 pm.</b> 6710 S Glencoe #111. 303-740-8690	<b>5 Broomfield</b> Mamie Doud Library at the Civic Center, 7 pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303-465-9676 <b>Colorado Springs</b> 7 pm, 719-532-0118	<b>6 Jefferson County</b> 6 pm social, 7 pm business. 12895 West 16 <sup>th</sup> Drive in Golden. Call Tom Goonan: 303-202-9069	7  <i>First National Election – 1789</i>	<b>8 Denver Breakfast</b> 8 am at LePeep's, Colorado Boulevard at Mexico in Denver. Call David Aitken: 303-831-4334
9	<b>10 Boulder</b> , noon. 303-443-9179 <b>Adams County</b> 7 pm – 303-252-7808 <b>LP of CO - in Denver</b> Board meeting, 7 pm. 303-639-5530	11	<b>12 Colorado Springs</b> Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. Baron's Saloon at Airport & Academy. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118	<b>13 Boulder – LPBC</b> Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Murphy's Grill at 28 <sup>th</sup> & Iris in Boulder. Call Ron Bain: 303-443-9179	14	<b>15 Denver Breakfast</b> LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334
16	<b>17 Boulder</b> Luncheon, noon. 303-443-9179 <b>Fort Collins – 7 pm</b> at the China Dragon, 1401 West Elizabeth. 970-667-7557	18	<b>19 Colorado Springs</b> Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719-532-0118	20	21	<b>22 Denver Breakfast</b> LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334
23	<b>24 Boulder</b> , noon. 303-443-9179 <b>Adams County</b> , 7 pm Jade City Café, 12010 Melody Drive. Call Jay Carper: 303-252-7808	25	<b>26 Colorado Springs</b> Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719-532-0118	<b>27 Colorado Springs</b> Quarterly Board Meeting 7 pm. Location TBA. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118	28	<b>29 Denver Breakfast</b> LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334 <b>Adams County</b> Outreach meeting, location TBA. Call Jay Carper, 303-252-7808
30	<b>31 Boulder</b> Luncheon, noon. 303-443-9179	<b>Feb 1 Fort Collins</b> Breakfast, 7 am at Joe's Fireside Café, 238 S College Ave. Call Lee Smith: 970-635-0395	<b>2 Broomfield</b> Mamie Doud Library at the Civic Center, 7 pm. Call Wright Morgan: 303-465-9676 <b>Colorado Springs</b> 7 pm, 719-532-0118	<b>3 Jefferson County</b> 6 pm social, 7 pm business. Call Tom Goonan: 303-202-9069 <b>Adams County</b> , 7 pm Shari's, 511 E 120 <sup>th</sup> Ave 303-252-7808	4	<b>5 Denver Breakfast</b> LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334
6	<b>7 Boulder</b> Luncheon, noon. 303-443-9179 <b>Southside – 7 pm.</b> Location TBA. Call Bennett Rutledge: 303-740-8690	8	<b>9 Colorado Springs</b> Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. Baron's Saloon at Airport & Academy. Call John Berntson: 719-532-0118	<b>10 Boulder – LPBC</b> Board Meeting, 6:30 pm. Cheng's Chinese, 480 W Dahlia in Louisville. Call Ron Bain: 303-443-9179	11	<b>12 Denver Breakfast</b> LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334  <i>Abraham Lincoln's Birthday – 1809</i>
13	<b>14 Boulder</b> , noon. 303-443-9179 <b>Adams County</b> , 7pm 303-252-7808 <b>LP of CO - in Denver</b> Board meeting, 7 pm. 303-639-5530	15	<b>16 Colorado Springs</b> Friends of Liberty, 7 pm. 719-532-0118	17	18	<b>19 Denver Breakfast</b> LePeep's, 8 am. 303-831-4334

Future  
Dates  
on the  
Liberty  
Calendar

April 14, 15, & 16: **State Convention in Denver.** Nomination of candidates and delegates; seminars, guest speakers, banquet & parties. Early registration \$109. Contact Michele Bethke at 303-690-2907. See ad, opposite.

June 30 through July 3: **National Convention in Anaheim, California.** For more information call (202) 333-0008, Ext. 227.

## National Organization

### Libertarian Party – U.S. National HQ

2600 Virginia Ave NW #100  
Washington DC 20037  
(202) 333-0008 <http://www.lp.org>

### National Chair – David Bergland

1773 Bahama Place  
Costa Mesa CA 92626  
(714) 966-1211  
<dbergland@earthlink.net>

### LNC Rep – Bette Rose Smith

(303) 639-5530 <betterose@aol.com>

### LNC Alternate – Ed Hoch

(907) 479-4593

### New Member Line:

1-800-353-2887

## State Organization

### Libertarian Party of Colorado

720 East 18<sup>th</sup> Ave #309  
Denver CO 80203-1415  
(303) 837-9393  
<http://www.cybercell.net/~lpcolorado>

### State Chair – Bette Rose Smith

PO Box 460202  
Glendale CO 80246  
(303) 639-5530 <betterose@aol.com>

### Campaigns Director – Dean Jacobsen

c/o RockWare, Inc.  
2221 E St Floor 1, Golden CO 80401  
(303) 278-3534 Fax (303) 278-4099  
<dean@rockware.com>

### Outreach Director – Tom Goonan

PO Box 150264, Lakewood CO 80215  
(303) 202-9069 <tgoonan@sprintmail.com>

### Publications Director – (Unfilled)

### Public Information – Craig Stinson

4472 W Hinsdale Avenue  
Littleton CO 80128  
(720) 981-4661 Fax (720) 981-4662  
<craigstinson@free-market.net>

### Information Director – Michael Simpson

5688 County Road 730  
Gunnison CO 81230  
(970) 641-3112 (W) (970) 641-6664 (H)

### Legislative Director – (Unfilled)

## State Organization (cont.)

### Treasurer – David Bryant

520 S Corona St, Denver CO 80209  
(303) 744-6577 Fax (303) 733-8491  
<davidbryant@att.net>

### Fundraising Director – Carol Hill

424 E 11<sup>th</sup>, Leadville CO 80461  
(719) 486-2866 Fax (719) 486-2866  
<chill@amigo.net>

### Advertising Manager – Ron Bain

(303) 443-9179 <rez2word@aol.com>

## Local Organizations

### Adams County – Jay Carper

10701 Pecos #2112, Northglenn CO 80234  
(303) 252-7808 Fax (925) 201-2112 x1029  
<jaycarper@zdnetwork.com>

### Aspen “Liberty Coalition” – Tom Peckham

PO Box 9766, Aspen CO 81612  
(970) 925-6027

### Aurora Libertarians – Doug Newman

999 S Carson Ct #203, Aurora CO 80012  
(303) 369-3809 <dougnewman@juno.com>  
<http://www.geocities.com/capitolhill/7093>

### Boulder County – Ron Bain

2769 Iris #105, Boulder CO 80304  
(303) 443-9179 <rez2word@aol.com>  
<http://www.quetzal.com/lpbc>

### Broomfield Libertarians - Wright Morgan

PO Box 131, Broomfield CO 80038  
(303) 465-9676

### Chaffee County – Carol Hill

424 E 11<sup>th</sup>, Leadville CO 80461  
(719) 486-2866 Fax (719) 486-2866  
<chill@amigo.net>

### Denver County – David Aitken

1240 Ogden #4, Denver CO 80218  
(303) 831-4334 <daitken@tde.com>

### El Paso County – John Berntson

242D W Rockrimmon Blvd  
Colorado Springs CO 80919  
(719) 532-0118 <jkbcolosp@aol.com>  
<http://www.lpep.org>

### Florissant area – Michael DeNoto, Jr.

10287 Cty Rd 11, Florissant CO 80816  
(719) 689-2348

### Greeley / Weid – Pam & Pete Stapp

929 16<sup>th</sup> St #B, Greeley CO 80631  
(970) 356-0803

## Local Organizations

### Gunnison Area – Michael Simpson

5688 Cty Rd 730, Gunnison CO 81230  
(970) 641-3112 (W) (970) 641-6664 (H)

### Jackson County – Kathy Romack

PO Box 415, Walden CO 80480  
(970) 723-4016

### Jefferson County – Tom Goonan

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# STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

by Ari Armstrong

It's not too early for Libertarian candidates to start strategizing for 2000. Of course, campaigns for local offices tend to focus on personalities, so strategies will differ from one race to another. But those running for state legislature, governor, U.S. Congress, and other partisan offices need to figure out how to run successfully as *Libertarian* candidates.

## Divide and Conquer

In a typical election, roughly 80% of the population registers to vote, and about half of those registered cast a vote. In other words, a major-party candidate can win with 20% support from the populace.

Assuming a three-way race in which 40% of the people vote, a Libertarian must win 14% popular support to achieve office.

How did Jesse "The Body" Ventura win? He ran against two evenly matched opponents. Ventura probably would have lost a two-way race against either the Republican or the Democrat. But the two major parties split the "respectable" vote, so Ventura was able to pull off an upset and become governor under Perot's goofy Reform Party.

Ventura, of course, has star power. Undoubtedly, many who voted for him didn't care so much about his ideas, but were drawn instead by his colorful past as a Navy Seal and professional wrestler. I have yet to meet a Colorado Libertarian with that kind of pizzazz.

Ventura also captured the votes of youth. By playing a populist tune to a new generation beat, Ventura was able to win over an entire demographic segment. If Libertarians hope to win office like Ventura did, they too will have to energize the young idealists who are turned off by major-party politics.

Libertarians who pick a race where Republicans and Democrats are evenly divided may be able to succeed with the divide and conquer strategy.

## The Wedge Issue

In the December 1999 issue of *Liberty Magazine*, and in follow-up notes in the January, 2000, edition, R.W. Bradford

suggests the LP run on a *wedge issue*, one "on which people's opinions are strong and that can therefore be used to induce them to abandon their traditional political behavior". Bradford suggests the issue of drug legalization.

Bradford continues, "[Make drug legalization] *the* campaign issue, the central theme of the campaign.... If the LP could offer voters a way of making an unequivocal statement for drug legalization, enough might vote Libertarian for the party to escape the ignominy of getting less than one percent of the vote."

While Bradford is speaking of national politics, his theory might play well on the state level. A significant minority of the population wants to see drugs legalized, yet neither of the major parties favors that policy.

The strategy might work because, instead of being forced to say, "I support drug legalization, *and* massive tax cuts, *and* privatized education," before voting Libertarian, voters would only have to favor the single issue.

Of course, this strategy entails potential problems. Say the LP does capture 5% to 10% of the vote – then what? Are we forever stigmatized as a single-issue party? Will the LP be able to bring additional pro-freedom ideas into play?

Another wedge issue that might work well in Colorado is the right to keep and bear arms. Bradford explicitly says that gun rights won't serve as a wedge because the Republicans share the issue. However, Colorado Libertarians should be able to make it a wedge issue.

Instead of echoing the Republican mantra, "We oppose additional restrictions on the right to bear arms and call for present laws to be more stringently enforced," the LP could cry, "We will actively work to win back the gun rights you have already lost!"

The Republican Party dropped concealed carry after Columbine, and the Republican leadership now calls for *more* anti-gun-owner laws such as mandatory storage and expanded background checks. Many gun owners are fighting mad. Governor Bill Owens flippantly asks, "What are you going to do? Vote Democratic?"

*continued on page 11*

*"We will actively work to win back the gun rights you have already lost!"*

## LETTERS TO THE LIBERTY

The editorial policy of *Colorado Liberty* is to provide a Libertarian perspective on issues of current interest. Many such issues are controversial, even among Libertarians. The editors of the *Liberty* invite commentary from all sides of such issues. We aim to make the *Liberty* an informative and objective advocate for freedom.

The following letter was recently published in the *Colorado Springs Gazette*. Steve Gresh sent it to the *Liberty*, along with a note explaining that another Libertarian from El Paso County, Coinneach Fitzpatrick, also had a hand in its composition.

Dear Editor:

Our fearsome tyrant, der fuehrer Clinton, once again has us up in arms with another of his relentless attacks on the people of the United States. With callous indifference toward each individual's right of self-defense and with flagrant disregard for our Constitution, he now targets the Second Amendment.

Under the guise of protecting 3¼ million public housing residents whose security alone costs taxpayers \$1 billion annually, he has directed the federal government to set its sights on Colt, Smith & Wesson, and other highly esteemed manufacturers of precision firearms. Billy "the Kid" Clinton aims to gun them down in cold blood just as he's already blown the tobacco companies away.

Which industries are next on his hit list? Automotive? Tools? Kitchen cutlery? Video games? Junk food?

John Lott, while a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, meticulously documented the fact that approximately 2½ million incidents of guns used defensively save some 400 thousand lives every year. If Clinton's most recent propagandistic crusade prevails, the lives of at least that many law-abiding citizens will undoubtedly be sacrificed.

The impeached liar's deceitful rationale for proceeding with this lawsuit is that some 350 total shooting deaths occur in the nation's 100 largest government housing projects each year.

More than 250 million firearms are already in private hands. When will the body, vehicle, and home searches begin? Forced registration of all firearms, including those obtained prior to the advent of gun-control legislation, and their subsequent confiscation – which has always preceded genocide – would be the only means to prevent criminals from obtaining guns.

While Democrats such as Clinton aggressively seek to disarm us, Republicans meekly acquiesce in the mounting infringement of *the right of the people to keep and bear Arms* to avoid

*"If Clinton's most recent ... crusade prevails, the lives of ... many law-abiding citizens will ... be sacrificed."*

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losing elections. Libertarians are apparently the only ones who comprehend the meaning of "*A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State.*"

George Washington and George Mason formed the Fairfax County Militia in 1774 to oppose the edicts of the British crown and its agent, the governor of Virginia. They regulated their militia well, which was necessary to gain security for their free state during the Revolutionary War. Both were also members of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Both certainly remembered what they had done thirteen years earlier.

Steve & Joan Gresh

Send your letters to **Colorado Liberty** c/o Libertarian Party of Colorado, 720 East 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue #309, Denver CO 80203. Or send e-mail to <betterose@aol.com>, <davidbryant@att.net>, <rez2word@aol.com>, or <tgoonan@sprintmail.com>.

Letters of fewer than 300 words are preferred. If you really want to speak out on an issue that interests you, send us an article instead. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit your submissions as we see fit. But we're reasonable about it.

## Strategies from page 9

Gun owners *might* vote Libertarian, if the party reaches out to them.

Unfortunately, many gun owners tend to be conservative on the drug issue. This is true even though the drug war is a primary cause of gun violence and thus a major impetus in the war against guns. No matter the issue, this strategy poses the same problem: How can we move beyond the wedge?

### Education

Alternatively, a candidate can give up on short-term electoral success and focus on educating the small group of people who are already open to libertarian ideas.

Candidates can forget about reaching the masses with watered-down propaganda – forget about shaking hands and kissing babies – and get down to brass tacks by spreading the core libertarian philosophy to a few open-minded individuals.

Using this strategy, the candidate's purpose is to provide detailed information about libertarian economic and political theory, along with references to our core literature. The goal is not to win votes, but to reach a few budding intellectuals who will become active supporters of the libertarian cause. This strategy is not about winning elections today — it aims to achieve long-range political success.

Regardless of the strategy a particular Libertarian candidate chooses, Bradford's article makes one point powerfully clear. *It's time to try something new.*

## SAKSON FOR CONGRESS?

Details were sketchy as we went to press, but it's likely that Carbondale businessman Drew Sakson will soon open a campaign for U.S. Congress in the third congressional district. Campaign manager Richard Lamping recently informed the *Liberty* that a public announcement was planned for the week after Christmas.

If you would like to get involved in this nascent campaign please feel free to contact Richard at 970-963-7143, or send e-mail to <rlamping@yahoo.com>.

## COMPROMISE WON'T WORK

Maybe gun rights *will* work as a "wedge issue" for Libertarian candidates. Michael McKinzie recently received a letter from NRA president Charlton Heston urging him to join the National Rifle Association. The letter concluded by saying, "[I]f you can't join the NRA, then please let me know why. We'll never win unless I can count on your friendship and your commitment to the cause of freedom. Only by standing strong together will we defeat the biased and bigoted media elite who fuel this cultural war on every rifle, handgun and shotgun you own."

Michael decided to let the NRA know why. Here's his response.

Dear Mr. Heston,

Thank you for your very interesting letter. Even though it is a form letter, and probably one of thousands – (hopefully one of millions) – I found it to be very stirring. I wish you and the NRA the best of luck with this campaign.

Alas, I must inform you that you cannot count on my support. I'm happy to explain why.

The rights that you are fighting so nobly to save have already been taken from me. I am prohibited by the government now in power from owning firearms. The NRA was unable to prevent this.

Do you recall when William Bennett was Drug Czar under then President Reagan? While Bennett was busy with the assault weapons ban the NRA was busy moving into newly built headquarters. No disrespect, sir, but the NRA is fighting like a drunkard in a mudpit.

I have given my support to the Libertarian Party. They are the only group fighting to restore my rights. As long as the NRA continues to associate with Democrats and Republicans the NRA will be compromised and ineffective.

Rampant socialism is upon us, sir! The wolf is at the door. Do not associate with the enemies of freedom. Do not make deals with them. Join with true freedom-lovers and make a real difference.

I urge you to find out more about the Libertarian Party. Only then can we truly work together.

Yours in admiration and respect,  
Michael T. McKinzie

PS – Love your movies!

*"While Bennett was busy with the assault weapons ban the NRA was busy moving into newly built headquarters."*

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